

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DPW-01 OMB-01 EB-11

TRSE-00 CIEP-02 AGR-20 SPM-01 DRC-01 /207 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5142

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12553

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, PFOR, CB

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN ESF

REF: STATE 209490

1. WE DISCUSSED CAMBODIAN ESF ALONG LINES REFTEL WITH I.H. HARRIS, NEW HEAD OF SOUTH EAST ASIA DIVISION, OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION, REPLACING ANGUS RAE WITH WHOM WE HAVE GONE OVER THIS MATTER A NUMBER OF TIMES IN THE PAST. HARRIS REPORTED THAT HMG'S ATTITUDE HAS NOT CHANGED. THEY DO NOT LIKE ESF AND DO NOT WISH TO BE INVOLVED IN IT. HMG DEFINITELY WISHES TO SUPPORT GKR, BUT PREFERS THAT BRITISH SUPPORT BE IN THE FORM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OR SMALL-SCALE PROJECT AID. IN ADDITION TO THEIR RESERVATIONS ABOUT CONTRIBUTING TO FUND SUCH AS ESF, BRITISH ARE ALSO CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT THEY ARE THE ONLY EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTOR.

2. DESPITE FOREGOING, HARRIS SAID IT IS PROBABLE, BUT BY NO MEANS CERTAIN, THAT HMG WILL DECIDE TO CONTRIBUTE TO 1974 ESF. HE INDICATED THAT IF DECISION IS POSITIVE, IT WILL BE FOR PURELY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. HE
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UNDERScoreD THAT DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE AND THAT THIS

PRELIMINARY INDICATION OF HMG INTENTIONS IS STRICTLY FOR OUR INFORMATION AND SHOULD NOT BE SHARED WITH ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT.

3. HARRIS SAID THAT HE WOULD BE ATTENDING NOVEMBER 15 MEETING IN PARIS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO SPECULATE ABOUT THE EVENTUAL HMG DECISION, WE NOTE THAT THE BRITISH IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN PERSUADED TO MAKE TWO "ONCE AND FOR ALL" PAYMENTS TO ESF. THIS, PLUS FACTS THAT HARRIS INDICATED THAT BRITISH CONTRIBUTION IS "PROBABLE" AND THAT HE WILL GO TO PARIS, AUGURS WELL FOR UK PARTICIPATION.

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30 JUN 2005

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